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gives the result of a canvass of the opinions of American economists on minimum wage legislation.

Though the book is in the main descriptive, it is tinged with propagandism. The author favors the minimum wage. He advances no new arguments, but omits important criticisms. Universally, it is contended, efficiency has increased with increased wages and the standard of living has been raised; employers are satisfied in a majority of cases, and little unemployment has resulted. No study, however, is here made of the cost to the consumer.

The Federal Executive. By JOHN PHILIP HILL. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1916. 8vo, pp. 269. \$2.00.

This volume is practically a history of the Executive Department of the United States government. The main theme of the whole book is the growth of power of the president and his cabinet. All of the more important executive functions have been traced back to their sources. A considerable space is devoted to the consideration of the multiplicity of duties attached to the Executive Department and the great importance of these duties. Mr. Hill holds to the idea that this relative enlargement of the scope of executive power is in keeping with the general advancement of civilization, and points out general lines along which still further prestige should be given to this Department. A greater degree of efficiency can best be obtained by a still further concentration of discretionary power in the hands of the few. There seems to be no question in the author's mind that as time goes on the cabinet will come to be a more important factor in the shaping of our international as well as our internal policies. New departments will be added as the need for them is felt, and each will tend to outgrow the temporary restrictions placed upon it by shelf-worn traditions.

The Operation of the Initiative, Referendum, and Recall in Oregon.

By JAMES DUFF BARNETT. New York: Macmillan, 1915. 8vo, pp. xi+295. \$2.00.

In this book Professor Barnett endeavors to show the actual working of the initiative, referendum, and recall in the state of Oregon, and the attitude of the people toward direct legislation. The same problems which have confronted legislation by representative bodies are shown to reappear when the people become their own legislature. Particularly, the indifference of voters, absence of skill in drafting of laws, irresponsible indorsers, the influence of organized groups, difficulties with the ballot by reason of complexity, and development of a professional group of "paid petition passers," are revealed; and the attempts of the people to eliminate these difficulties are set forth. A noteworthy feature of the work is the reliance upon the press of the state,

extensive use being made of the two leading newspapers, the *Oregonian* and the *Oregon Journal*. The impression gained is that although the system of direct legislation has experienced many difficulties, the people of Oregon have as yet no intention of abandoning it, but rather are determined to eliminate its defects.

Social and Economic Survey of a Community in Northeastern Minnesota.

By GUSTAV P. WARBER. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 1915. Crown 8vo, pp. viii+111. \$0.25.

This survey gives an accurate picture of a community in the cut-over section of northeastern Minnesota, where dairying and potato raising are the principal sources of income. It portrays in considerable detail the economic, civic, educational, religious, and social activities of the community, showing how it markets its products, how it buys goods, and how its political and religious life is organized. It is to be regretted that the maps which accompany the report are not so illuminating as they might be. Although they help one materially to understand the important facts as to topography, soil conditions, and natural vegetation, they are somewhat confusing in that no scale of miles is given to aid in their interpretation. But the report itself may be read with profit by all students of current problems.

Political Parties and Party Problems in the United States. By JAMES ALBERT WOODBURN. New York: Putnam, 1914. 8vo, pp. 13+487. \$2.50.

In 1904 there was published a book of the same name by the same author. The present work is a revised edition bringing the volume down to date. It discusses American political parties, their history, machinery, and morality. The historical development of parties in the United States, written in an interesting though necessarily brief manner, comprises the first half of the book. In Part II the machinery of electing a president is outlined, and Part III deals with sundry party problems. Civil service reform, bosses, and party finance are discussed, and primary election reform is advocated to restore the government of the parties to the masses of the voters. The work is comprehensive, and might well be read by those whose general knowledge of the subject is meager.